

**LIST OF CHRYSOMELIDAE AND CURCULIONOIDEA
(COLEOPTERA) FROM SAINT BEES HEAD, WEST CUMBRIA**

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SAINT BEES HEAD on the west Cumbrian coast lies approximately two miles to the south of Whitehaven and forms part of an extensive area of red sandstone cliffs which rise to a height of just over 300 feet at the highest point. The cliffs are home to many sea birds and a large part of the area is now managed as a nature reserve by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The habitats on the cliffs are many and varied and include open grassland with a rich herbaceous flora, heath, scrub with extensive patches of hawthorn and blackthorn, sheer cliff faces and areas of shingle.

The cliffs are a designated SSSI site and have been relatively well recorded both historically and currently. To date, quite a large number of invertebrates (including Coleoptera) have been recorded and they include a few species which are at their northern limit in this area. The most notable being the Dark Bush Cricket *Pholidoptera griseoptera* and the Isopod *Halophiloscia couchi*.

With the kind permission of the RSPB, I have carried out a small survey of the phytophagous coleoptera of the cliffs and the following list is the result of a number of trips made to the area during the past few years. Specimens were collected by traditional techniques of sweeping, beating and grubbing, and in some cases by careful examination of the recognised host-plants. Species were found in the following 1km grid squares NX94.12 (1), NX94.13 (2), NX94.14 (3), NX94.15 (4), NX95.11 (5), NX95.12 (6), NX95.15 (7) and they are referred to in the list by the bracketed number. Individual collecting dates have been summarised to months only and are indicated by roman numerals. Nomenclature follows Jermin & Mahler (1993), Kloet & Hincks (1977) and Morris (1990, 1991, 1993).

Acknowledgements

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List of species

CHRYSOMELIDAE

Apteropeda orbiculata (Marsham) single specimens on *Plantago maritima*, *Calluna* bushes and in humus beneath Gorse (2, 6, 7) i,iv,v,ix.

Chaetocnema concinna (Marsham) one at base of low herbage (3) iv.

C. hortensis (Fourcroy) several at base of *Rumex acetosa* (4) ix.

Chrysolina staphylaea (Linnaeus) adults and larvae on *Plantago lanceolata* (6, 7) iv, ix.

Crepidodera ferruginea (Scopoli) in small numbers on *Cirsium arvense* (7) viii.

Derocrepis rufipes (Linnaeus) two tapped from *Vicia cracca* by cliff top path (3) viii.

Gastrophysa viridula (Degeer) eggs, larvae and adults on *Rumex obtusifolius* (3) vi.

Hydrothassa glabra (Herbst) one crawling by cliff footpath (5) v.

Longitarsus pratensis (Panzer) one at base of *Plantago lanceolata* (4) ix.

L. suturellus (Duftschmid) one swept from low herbage (1) x.

Oulema melanopa (Linnaeus) one beaten from Gorse (4), one on the footpath (1), one in deep humus beneath Gorse bush (6) iv,vi,vii.

Phaedon cochleariae (Fabricius) one on *Cochlearia officinalis* (4) vi.

P. tumidulus (Germar) adults and larvae in numbers on *Aegopodium podagraria* and *Heracleum sphondylium* (3,5,6,) iv, vi, viii.

Sphaeroderma rubidum (Graells) several on leaves of *Centaurea nigra* on cliff top (7) x.

S. testaceum (Fabricius) one on *C. nigra* by the footpath (2) viii.

ATTELABIDAE

Rhynchites germanicus Herbst: several in deep humus beneath Blackthorn bushes (2,4) iv.

APIONIDAE

Ceratapion gibbirostre (Gyllenhal) several tapped from *Cirsium arvense* (7) viii.

Chlorapion virens (Herbst) several by grubbing at base of *Trifolium pratense* (7,3) viii,ix,x.

Cobosiotherum scutellare (Kirby) beaten from Gorse bushes on steep cliff (4) iv.

Diplapion confluens (Kirby) three under *Matricaria* (1) x.

Eutrichapion ervi (Kirby) two tapped from *Vicia cracca* by cliff path (2) viii.

Exapion ulicis (Forster) common on Gorse bushes (4,7) i,iv,viii.

Ischnopterapion loti (Kirby) two tapped from flower heads of *Lotus corniculatus* (7) viii.

Legaricapion aethiops (Herbst) in small numbers on *Vicia sylvatica* (1) x.

Perapion curtirostre (Germar) one by general grubbing amongst low herbage on cliff bank (7) i.

P. marchicum (Herbst) one by grubbing at base of *Rumex acetosella* by edge of field (3) iv.

P. violaceum (Kirby) one by general grubbing on low cliff bank (7) i.

Protapion assimile (Kirby) two tapped from *Trifolium pratense* (1, 7) viii,x.

P. apricans (Herbst) several on *T. pratense* (1) x.

P. fulvipes (Geoffroy) one beaten from Gorse bush (4) iv.

Protopirapion atratulum (Germar) in small numbers on Gorse bushes (4) iv.

CURCULIONIDAE

Acalles misellus Boheman: several in deep humus beneath Gorse bushes (7) xi.

A. ptinoides Marsham: small numbers in humus and leaf litter beneath Gorse (7) vii,xi.

Alophus triguttatus (Fabricius) several by grubbing at base of *Plantago lanceolata* on cliff tops (4,6,7) iv,vii,ix.

Anthonomus brunnipennis (Curtis) adults in small numbers on *Potentilla erecta*. Eggs and larvae found in the flower buds of this plant (3) v,vi,x.

Baryntous squamosus Germar: single individuals by grubbing at base of *Plantago lanceolata* and *Rumex acetosella* (4,6,7) iv,vii,ix.

Barypeithes pellucidus (Boheman) by grubbing on grassy cliff bank and several found in humus beneath Gorse bushes (7) i,iv.

Brachysomus echinatus (Bonsdorff) three beaten from stunted Blackthorn bushes on cliff top, one in plant roots (4,6) iv.

Caenopsis waltoni (Boheman) quite common along the cliff tops; specimens taken by grubbing at base of Plantains, mainly *P. maritima* (3,4,6,7) i,iv,vii,viii,ix,x.

Ceutorhynchus contractus (Marsham) three tapped from *Cochlearia officinalis* (4) iv.

Hypera nigrirostris (Fabricius) one in humus and litter beneath Gorse bushes (7) i.

H. venusta (Fabricius) several on *Anthyllis vulneraria*; very localised on the cliffs (4) iv.

Leiosoma deflexum (Panzer) one at base of *Ranunculus repens* by cliff top path (6) iv.

Liophloeus tessulatus (Muller, O.F.) one dead specimen in leaf litter and humus beneath Gorse bushes (6) i.

Mecinus pyrastrer (Herbst) in small numbers on *Plantago lanceolata* (7) i,v,ix.

Micrelus ericae (Gyllenhal) three beaten from *Calluna* bushes on cliff top (2) iv.

Microplontus triangulum (Boheman) one in leaf litter beneath Gorse bush (7) i.

Nedys quadrimaculatus (Linnaeus) in small numbers on *Urtica dioica* (7) viii.

Orobitis cyaneus (Linnaeus) one tapped from mixed herbage by footpath (1) x.

Orthochaetes setiger (Beck) one dead specimen in leaf litter beneath Gorse bushes (7) i.

Otiorhynchus desertus Rosenhauer: single individuals taken by grubbing at base of *Plantago lanceolata* and *P. maritima* (4,6) iv,v,vi,ix.

O. ligneus (Olivier) one at base of *Rumex acetosella* (4) iv

O. rugifrons (Gyllenhal) several specimens by grubbing at base of *Plantago maritima* (6,7) i,iv,v,ix.

O. singularis (Linnaeus) by grubbing at base of low herbage, mainly *Plantago lanceolata* and *Rumex* spp. (4,6,7) i,iv,v,vii,ix.

O. sulcatus (Fabricius) one tapped from mixed herbage on bank above the shore (1) vi.

Pelenomus quadrituberculatus (Fabricius) one crawling in open area on grassy bank (3) v.

Philopodon plagiatus (Schaller) one specimen by general grubbing on cliff top (6) vii.

Phyllobius roboretanus Gredler: several specimens tapped from *Cirsium arvense* and *Urtica dioica* around old mine workings (1) vi.

P. viridicollis (Fabricius) tapped in small numbers from *Vicia sepium* (1) vi.

Rhinoncus pericarpus (Linnaeus) in small numbers on *Rumex* and *Polygonum* spp. (3,7) iv,ix.

Sciaphilus asperatus (Bonsdorff) one in humus beneath Gorse bush and one by grubbing amongst low herbage on cliff bank (7) i,v.

Sitona ambiguus Gyllenhal: in small numbers on *Vicia cracca* and *V. sepium* (1,2) vi,viii,x.

S. hispidulus (Fabricius) on low herbage, mainly *Trifolium* spp. (1,3,4) iv,ix,x.

S. lineellus (Bonsdorff) tapped from *Lotus corniculatus* on cliff top bank (6,7) vii,viii.

S. regensteinensis (Herbst) quite common on Gorse bushes (3,4,6,7) i,iv,v,vii,xi.

S. striatellus Gyllenhal several beaten from Gorse (4) iv.

S. suturalis Stephens: several tapped from *Vicia sepium* (1) vi.

Strophosoma melanogrammum (Forster) single individuals found in a variety of situations; beaten from Gorse, at base of *Rumex acetosella*, on *Calluna vulgaris* and in humus beneath Blackthorn (1,4,7) i,iv,viii,ix. (A species not usually associated with exposed cliffs. Normally found in woods on trees and shrubs.)

Trachyphloeus angustisetulus Hansen: quite common along the cliffs on *Plantago maritima* and also found in association with Thyme and *Lotus corniculatus* (1,4,6,7) iii,iv,vi,vii,ix.

T. aristatus Boheman one at base of *Rumex acetosella* (4) iv.

T. laticollis Boheman in small numbers at base of Plantains, mainly *P. maritima*. Quite widespread on the cliffs (3,4,6,7) iv,vii,viii,xi.

Zacladus geranii (Paykull) several taken on flower petals of *Geranium sanguineum* (4) v,vi.

SCOLYTIDAE

Phloeophthorus rhododactylus (Marsham) a few specimens in dead Gorse twigs (7) xi.

References

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Acontia lucida (Hufnagel) (Lep.: Noctuidae) in Kent and Dorset

A specimen of the Pale Shoulder, *Acontia lucida*, was taken by my brother, John Owen, in a mercury vapour trap at Eastbridge House, Dymchurch, Kent, on the night of 5th August 1994. Another was trapped on the same night by Roy Eden at West Bexington, Dorset. The species has been reported in southern England about 14 times (only eight records are considered reliable) in the nineteenth century. There are apparently no previous records for the twentieth century, and no other records for 1994, making the occurrence of two on the same night a remarkable coincidence. How many more of this presumed immigrant arrived in southern England in early August 1994 we shall probably never know. This species is illustrated in South, 1961, *Moths of the British Isles*, plate 126.

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